

GREEN Community Schools

Of the Planet, For the Community,
By the Children

Jayni Chase

Board of Directors and Chairperson Green Community
Schools Initiative, the MGR Foundation
Founder, Center for Environmental Education

Mission

GREEN Community Schools' mission is to create long-term holistic partnerships – between schools, parents, community residents, local institutions, and local, regional and national educational and environmental resources – to help schools and their surrounding communities become more environmentally aware and sustainable

GREEN Community Schools promotes and underwrites environmental and sustainability efforts specifically for under-served schools and communities, which might not otherwise have the resources to develop and pursue critical environmental and sustainability efforts on their own

GREEN Community Schools is a program of the MGR Foundation, dedicated to providing direct service to the community since 2001



The Unique Impact of “Green Schools”

Schools are the most important public infrastructure in most communities

- Transforming school buildings into centers for green development
 - Creates opportunities for unique pedagogical programs, offering students education through real-world experiences with developing “green” technologies, methods and processes
 - Improves overall community health
 - Saves money
- Targeting under-served schools
 - Greatest need/highest impact
 - Least likely to have sustainability program in place, or funds available to develop one



“The Fierce Urgency of Now”

A web of interrelated environmental, health and economic challenges face under-served schools and communities

- Environmental Issues

- Unhealthy buildings and toxic building materials
- Indoor air pollution/poor air circulation
- Inefficient heating, cooling and lighting
- Paper, food and other waste

- Health Issues

- Asthma
- Obesity
- Diabetes
- Cancer, stroke and heart disease
- Sedentary lifestyles

- Economic Issues

- Unnecessarily high energy costs
- Frequent building repairs and remediation
- Expensive disposable supplies
- Unhealthy, environmentally and economically inefficient processed foods



GREEN Community Schools, a Major Initiative of the MGR Foundation

Turning local schools into centers for green development

- A unique process that involves students, teachers, school administrators and the community at every step and in every aspect of local green initiatives
- Unit plans, lesson plans and experiential learning across the curriculum, directly linked to state and federally assessed standards
- Direct community outreach through open community access to green school facilities, programs and other resources
- Mutual student and community leadership and economic development
- Program went live January 2010 at Al Raby High School in Chicago



Green Community School's Holistic Approach

The three core concepts of the approach

Curriculum Integrations

- Supporting teachers to integrate environmental concepts into existing curriculum and enhancing classroom learning through community, non-profit, corporate, and university partnerships.

Out of School

- Providing after school programs, internships, jobs, leadership training, environmental advocacy, and experiences in nature for all students, supporting learning in the classroom.

Facility Enhancements and Community Outreach

- Creating a sustainable green building that serves the needs and desires of the community; equipped to educate the whole community for years to come.



A Unique, Immersive and Relevant Curriculum

Curriculum Integrations

- Environmental literacy and sustainability education in every subject
 - Chemistry classes grow algae and convert it to biodiesel
 - Math classes use green industries as models for graphs and equations
 - Civics creates a timeline of the history and impacts of consumption in the U.S.
- Green curriculum and professional development support for every teacher
- Instruction from local university partners on ongoing green research and development initiatives



A Unique, Immersive and Relevant Curriculum

Subject	GRADE	UNIT	TIMEFRAME	GREEN ZONE	CONTENT
Civics	11	3 or 4	December	CONSUMPTION	Timeline for Consumption in US through 1900's
US History	10	6 or 7	April	GREEN MOVEMENT	Social Movements: Activism & Environmentalism
English/Reading	9	7	November	FOOD	Writing - Recipes & Healthy Substitutions
English/World Lit'	10	2	October	FOOD/ Green Tech	World Lit – Cultural Heroism & Environmentalism
Math/Algebra	9	1	September	CONSUMPTION/FOOD	The GREEN Book – Reading Graphs
Math/Geometry	10	3	January	CONSUMPTION	Green Architecture & LEED Certification
Environmental	9	2	November	FOOD/NUTRITION	Conservation & Food Access
Enviro/Bio	10	2	October	FOOD/NUTRITION	Biodiversity, Food & Nutrition
Art	All	3	Nov/Dec	CONSUMPTION	Reuse Art projects – Plastics, Paper Making
Autism	All	1	Sept	FOOD	Personal Care – Gardening, Food & Nutrition

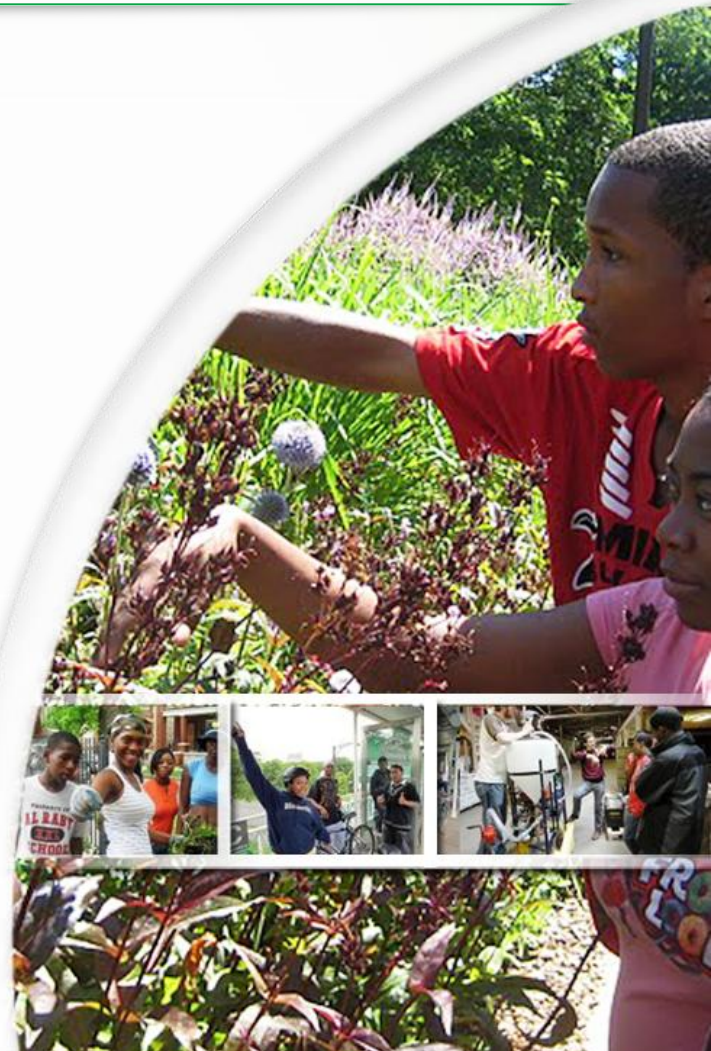
Sample Curriculum Integrations at Al Raby High School today



A Breath of Fresh Air

Out-of-School Activities

- Design, plant and maintain organic gardens
- Sponsor campus-wide events – “Locker Clean-Out Day,” “America Recycles Day,” “International Bike and Walk to School Day”
- Study and visit local green businesses and present annual “Green Fairs”
- Field trips and natural experiences supported by classroom curriculum
- Student, teacher and community leadership opportunities and access to regional and national GCS partners



A Re-imagined and Revitalized Community Resource

Facility Improvements and Community Outreach

- Schools to become accessible and vibrant green community centers
- Student-lead energy, air and other environmental audits
- Implementation of “first step” environmental remediations (recycling, lighting, insulation, cafeteria food packaging, menu changes)
- Develop long-term sustainable school “campuses” that prioritize sustainability and personal health
- Actively engage families and community members in GCS initiatives
- Re-engage community with school-based activities by opening facilities to creative community uses that focus on environmental and health education
- Develop school-based green markets, eco-fairs, health-screening days, and other community-facing initiatives
- Provide leadership and employment opportunities for students and community



The Green Resource Coordinator

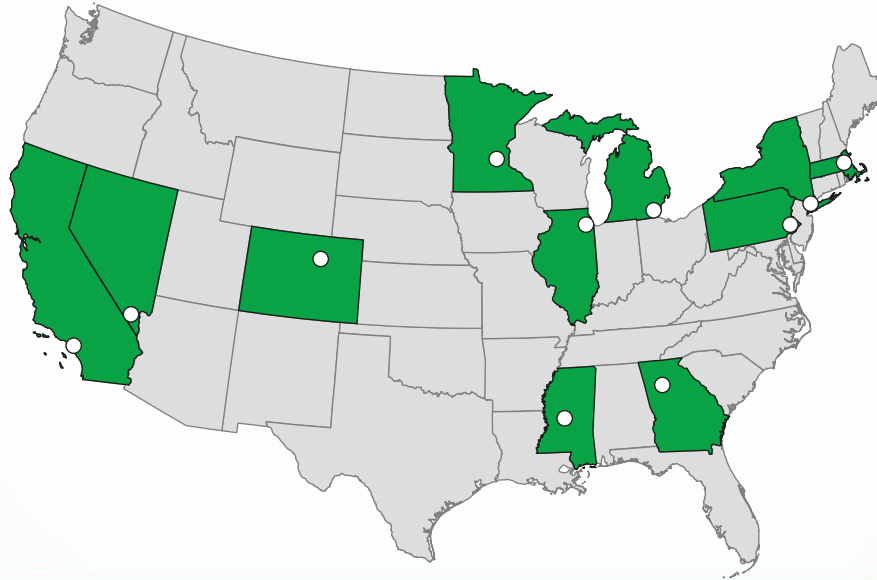
The human “linchpin” of the GREEN Community Schools program

- Serves as a school’s “Chief Sustainability Officer”
- Recruited from community
- Salary paid by Green Community Schools and MGR Foundation
- A full-time resource otherwise not available to school
- Develops and oversees green curriculum, activities and outreach



Where We Are, and Where We're Heading

- Full-time programs up and running: Al Raby High School, Chicago IL & Edison High School, Minneapolis MN.
- Commitment through Clinton Global Initiative to expand to **10 cities** over next five years
- Continue to model and document Green Community Schools initiatives so program can be replicated by other community organizations, non-profits, and agencies



Key Partners

Partners working within GREEN Community Schools at Al Raby HS

- Clinton Global Initiative
- US Green Building Council
- Al Raby School for Community and Environment
- Chicago Public Schools
- Openlands
- Edison High School
- Minneapolis Public Schools
- Chicago Park District
- Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
- City of Chicago's Department of Family and Support Services
- City of Chicago's Department of the Environment
- City of Chicago's Public Building Commission
- Delta Institute
- Alliance for Climate Education
- The Center for Environmental Education
- National Wildlife Federation – Eco Schools
- Loyola University
- Northwestern University
- Green Home Design Center
- Cool Globes
- Mayor Richard Daley, Chicago
- Mayor Daley's Safe Routes
- Children's Memorial Hospital
- Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance
- Field Museum, Chicago



MGR Foundation

Committed to overcoming social and educational barriers and creating innovative programs that positively impact our communities

- Founded 2001
- Leaders in innovative solutions for schools and communities
- Rooted in best practices with strong emphasis on evaluation
- Serving under-resourced populations and empowering communities
- Focused program areas: Arts, Education, & Youth Development; Volunteerism & Community Development; and Health & Wellbeing
- Highly efficient non-profit, with over 91% of revenue going directly to program activities



MGR Foundation

Current school- and community-based initiatives



Green Community Schools



Team M3: Chicago student/
mentor running team



Murals: student art-based anti-
violence program



Care Team: innovative student volunteer
action on homelessness and hunger



WillPower: teen
pregnancy prevention



Positive Spin: Youth Cycling
Program



Of the Planet, For the Community, By the Children

Green Community Schools – Outcomes and Goals

*“If positive environmental change is going to occur,
it must begin with the education of our children.”*

— Jayni Chase,

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- Engaged, connected and motivated students
- Safer, healthier, supportive environments for students, families and communities
- Community re-engagement with local schools and neighborhoods
- Continuing economic and educational opportunities



Green Community Schools

Thank you

- <http://www.mgrf.org/>
- <http://www.greencommunityschools.org/>

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